Wanderers present the TIE to remember

WYCOMBE DDLESBROUGH

By JOHN CAKLEY

JOHN MASKELL, long - serving Wycombe Wanderers goalkeeper, ad-

mits to being superstitious.

So before playing against First Division Middlesbrough at Loakes Park in the F.A. Cup third round he was going through his usual double act for Cup-tie days.

That involved wearing his navy blue Berks and Bucks county tie.

Then he was planning to be second man line when skipper Alan Phillips led the

Wycombe Wanderers on to the pitch.

"I'm not sure why I do these things," admitted Big John. "But I'm sure I would play badly if I forgot. I like getting on to the pitch as early as possible to shake off any pre-match nerves."

Maskell, now 31. is in his 12th season with the Wanderers and agrees that FA Cup ties are just that bit special.

ours that bit special.

I think all clubs like ours like to have a tilt at the big boys.

I think Middlesbrough are about the last team I wanted us to meet.

Some of the bigger clubs tend to mess about a little when they meet amateur or a population.

about a little when they meet amateur or a non-League club.
They try to take the mickey instead of get-ting on with winning the game.
But Middlesbrough are not like that. They don't appear to have any stars. But when I have seen them on the box they all work like mad for each other.

HARDEST

That is the hardest type of team to beat and if we are realistic we don't have too much chance.

I know we have a sloping pitch which confuses many teams at first but Middlesbrough should be too long in the tooth to be confused for long.

But don't think I'm too pessimistic I know a lot of things can happen in a Cup-tie. If Hendon can draw at Newcastle — remember last season? — then we have an outside chance. "I guess I'm in the hot seat. Make a mistake and it's curtains but I'm looking forward to this match.

These sort of cccasions can really life teams like ours and I know that all the lads will be giv-given in the lost seat. When the lads will be giv-given in the lads will be giv-giv



ALAN PHILLIPS leads out Wycombe followed immediately John Maskell. bу



Yes, it's a "tie" to remember for Wycombe goalkeeper John Maskell and he forecasts that Middlesbrough won't be able to forget it for years and years. Maskell, in his 12th season with The Happy Wanderers, says the occasion is going to lift them.

Don't worry Jack tells his lads



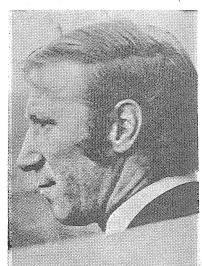
JIM PLATT, facing Wycombe.

MIDDLESBRO U G H
fans rate Jim Pratt the
best uncapped goalkeeper in the First
Division.

"And I'm not arguing
with that opinion," says
Middlesbrough Jack
Prishman Platt will win
over the impartials, plus
a few of the fervent
Loakes Park reguiars,
this afternoon.
Chariton's pre-match
ept talk will include a
warning to his team:
"Don't you worry about
the slope—and let Jim be
boss in the goal area."
Jack admits that he is
doing the worrying and
planning for his players
on how to combat that he
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teams nave met their Cup doom.
Chariton knows plenty about cup-fighting, hav-ing been centre half in England's team that won the world Cup in 1966.



JACKIE CHARLTON, Middlesbrough manager